

Amendments To The Claims

1(currently amended): In an autoloading gun construction having a breech end of a barrel assembled in a forward end portion [[of a]] of a barrel extension means, which extension means has an inner end portion formed with a flared shell receiving cavity for rapidly receiving cartridges (244), missile end first, and guiding them into said breech end, wherein said extension means is positioned between and secured by joint structure to wall sections of two opposing receiver plates of a receiver section, and wherein said wall sections each has a substantially planar outer surface, said joint structure comprising cooperating first edge portions of locator lands projecting outwardly from opposite sides of said barrel extension means, and second edge portions of aperture means formed thru each said wall section, wherein said lands extend into said aperture means and wherein said first and second edge portions are welded together.

2(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 1 wherein each said land means extends into an adjacent aperture means substantially to the plane of each said outer surface for enhancing weld strength therebetween.

3(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 2 wherein said wall sections and said barrel extension means are of stainless steel and wherein said first and second edge portions are each dimensioned to position said barrel extension means precisely at a specific location between said wall sections for welding.

4(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 1 wherein cooperating elements of connector means are provided on said breech end of said

barrel and in said forward end of said barrel extension means whereby said barrel can be removed from said barrel extension means.

5(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 4 wherein said cooperating elements comprise aligned slot means in an outer surface of said breech end of said barrel and in wall portions forming an inner surface of said barrel extension means, and spring clip means having arm means inserted thru said aligned slot means and adapted to bear laterally against side portions of each said slot means to thereby prevent longitudinal movement of said barrel with respect to said barrel extension means.

6(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 5 wherein clamping means is provided on said barrel extension means for tightening portions of said barrel extension means around said breech end of said barrel.

7(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 2 wherein cooperating elements of removable connector means are provided on said breech end of said barrel and in a barrel receiving bore in said forward end portion of said barrel extension means whereby said barrel can be removed from said barrel extension means.

8(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 7 wherein said cooperating elements comprise aligned slot means in an outer surface of said breech end of said barrel and in wall portions forming the inner surface of said barrel receiving bore, and spring clip means having arm means inserted thru said aligned slot means and adapted to bear laterally against side portions of each said slot means to thereby prevent longitudinal movement of said barrel with respect to said barrel extension means.

9(previously presented): The gun construction of claim 8 wherein clamping means is provided on said barrel extension means for tightening

portions of said barrel extension means around said breech end of said barrel.

10(previously presented). The gun construction of claim 9 where said clamping means comprises slot means formed substantially longitudinally in wall means defining said forward portion of said barrel extension means and said barrel receiving bore whereby said wall means can be flexed inwardly to reduce the diameter of said barrel receiving bore, and tightening means is provided and adapted to engage portions of said wall means on either side of said slot means and operable to reduce the width of said slot means to flex said wall means inwardly into tight engagement with the breech end of said barrel.